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## NOTES AND NEWS.

The Fourth Centenary of the discovery of the maritime route to India has been worthily celebrated. The Paris Geographical Society held a special Vasco da Gama meeting on the 25th of April, opened by an address from the President, M. A. Milne-Edwards. He was followed by Prof. Henri Cordier, who spoke of the Relations between Europe and Asia before and after the voyage of the great Portuguese; by Lieut. Emile Védel, who described the voyage as recorded in the *Roteiro*; and by the Marquis de La Mazelière, who took for his subject India at the Time of Vasco da Gama.

At a special meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held on the 16th of May, the President, Sir Clements Markham, K.C.B., read a paper on The Four Hundredth Anniversary of the discovery of the Cape Route to India by Vasco da Gama.

At Lisbon the celebration was opened, May 17th, by the firing of a salute of 101 guns by the forts and ships, and a grand naval review of the Portuguese and foreign ships. The three following days were devoted to regattas, processions, exhibitions and meetings, varied by excursions to famous places, such as Cintra, Batalha, Coimbra and Oporto.

Besides the publications of the Central Executive Committee (elsewhere acknowledged), and those of the Lisbon Geographical Society and the *Revista Portuguesa Colonial e Marítima*, an Album Commémoratif has been brought out in Paris by Mme. Juliette Adam, in a handsome folio, containing original poems, drawings and compositions, literary and musical, by François Coppée, Vice-Admiral Gervais, Carolus Duran, Puvis de Chavannes, Saint-Saëns, Sully-Prudhomme, Pierre Loti and others.

Another work forms a more permanent contribution to the literature of the Centenary. This is Mr. E. G. Ravenstein's translation of the *Roteiro*, issued by the Hakluyt Society, as No. XCIX. of their series. In this the editor has added translations of the letters of King Manoel and Sernigi and of three Portuguese accounts of da Gama's voyage. His Introduction and Notes are very valuable, though the reader learns with surprise (*Introduction*, p. XV.) that Magellan was a renegade Portuguese, and that the feminine form of the Latin adjective *vetus* is *veta* (*Introduction*, p. XXV.)

The *Université Nouvelle de Bruxelles* founded, on the 18th of March of this year, a Geographical Institute and adopted a plan of instruction comprising a Preparatory Course in the elements of science, of history, of languages and of drawing, and a three years Higher Course, with excursions during the vacations. The Institute expresses the wish to establish relations with geographical societies. Communications are to be addressed: au Secrétariat général de l'Université Nouvelle, rue des Minimes, 21, à Bruxelles.

The Siebenbürgischer Verein für Naturwissenschaften, at Hermannstadt, announces the death, on the 26th of May, of Dr. Edward Albert Bielz, one of the founders and for many years presiding officer of the Verein.